



### AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

#### Listing of the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising ~~[[a]]~~ the nucleotide sequence encoding ~~[[an]]~~ *S. epidermidis* polypeptide ~~[[of]]~~ SEQ ID NO: 6352.
2. (Currently Amended) A recombinant expression vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 operably linked to a transcription regulatory element.
3. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ An isolated cell comprising a recombinant expression vector of claim 2.
4. (Currently Amended) A method for producing an *S. epidermidis* polypeptide comprising culturing ~~[[a]]~~ the isolated cell of claim 3 under conditions that permit expression of the polypeptide.
5. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding ~~[[an]]~~ the *S. epidermidis* polypeptide ~~or a fragment thereof,~~ ~~wherein said nucleotide fragment comprises at least 12 contiguous nucleotides;~~ wherein said ~~nucleic acid~~ nucleotide sequence is SEQ ID NO: 2580.
6. (Currently Amended) A recombinant expression vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 5 operably linked to a transcription regulatory element.
7. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ An isolated cell comprising a recombinant expression vector of claim 6.
8. (Currently Amended) A method for producing ~~[[an]]~~ the *S. epidermidis*

polypeptide comprising culturing [[a]] the isolated cell of claim 7 under conditions that permit expression of the polypeptide.

9. (Currently Amended) [[A]] An isolated nucleic acid molecule [[probe]] comprising ~~a nucleotide sequence consisting of~~ at least ~~ten~~ twenty contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO: 2580.

Claims 10-32. Cancelled.

33. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid consisting of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2580.

34. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid consisting of a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6352.